

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 709 without my signature.

This bill would require public agencies to accept bids for appraisal projects from any appraiser with five years of experience and who is a member of an appraisal organization affiliated with the Appraisal Foundation.

Proponents of this bill believe current statutes are ambiguous in the definition of appraisers who have eligibility to perform work under state contracts. This bill addresses this perceived problem in an overly broad manner. By creating a specific cause of action, this bill could result in significant litigation costs for public agencies. It would be more appropriate to eliminate any discriminatory or obsolete references directly from the statutes.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger